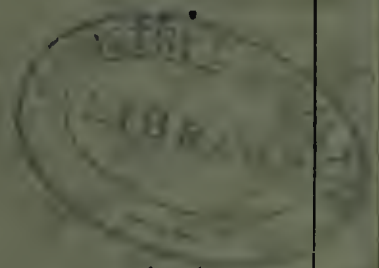


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Thorne Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954



Thorne Rural District Council



THE FIFTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

1954



By
G. HIGGINS, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

THORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

(As at 30.6.55).

Chairman:

MR. R. KELLEY

Vice-Chairman:

MR. J. E. THOMAS, J.P.

Members:

Mr. R. D. Ball	Mr. G. W. Kenny	Mr. T. Ratcliffe
„ J. Beldon	Mrs. M. Lloyd	„ G. Seddon
„ J. E. Denney	Mr. V. Lockwood	„ E. Stockton
Mrs. E. Duckitt	„ W. Machen	„ W. Stoddart
Mr. G. Evans	„ G. H. Nicholson	Mrs. E. Swift
„ F. Grugan	Mrs. M. Oldham	Mr. E. Whittaker
Mrs. A. E. Hinchliffe	Mr. J. T. Peace	

OFFICERS OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

Medical Officer of Health: — G. HIGGINS, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector: — W. BELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: — H. MORDUE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

OFFICES OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL:

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

P.O. Box No. 4,

Telephone: Thorne 2147. Ext. 4.

Council Offices, Thorne.

OFFICERS OF THE WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL (As at 30.6.55).

Assistant County Medical Officer: — DR. R. B. LAIDLAW-BECKER M.D., D.P.H.,
D.P.M.

Health Visitors:

Mrs. J. Chappell.
Miss P. B. Mabbitt.

Mrs. I. Will.

Assistant Health Visitor: Mrs. M. Hayes.

Home Nurses:

Miss A. K. Caraher.
Mrs. J. Cawthrow.
Mrs. P. Moulds.

Miss A. K. Schuller.
Mrs. D. Dray, (Temporary Staff).

Midwives:

Miss R. Autherson.
Mrs. E. Curd.
Mrs. M. Davidson.

Mrs. E. Gorst.
Mrs. S. Kenyon.
Mrs. M. Walker.

Mental Health Social Worker: — Miss P. M. Conway.

Mental Health Home Teacher: — Miss E. Smith.

Chief Clerk: J. T. Howitt.

Clerical Staff:

G. Beecham
M. Fielding
S. Fullwood

B. Tracey
V. R. Wheatley
P. Wilkinson

Public Health Department,
P.O. Box No. 4,
Council Offices, Thorne.

July, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Thorne Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the health conditions of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

This year has again proved comparatively uneventful. The Vital Statistics continue reasonably satisfactory and fully comparable with other similar areas.

There were 691 births in the area giving a rate of 20.7 per 1,000 population, over 30% more than the national average, and deaths numbered 300 giving a crude death rate of 9.0 per 1,000.

Regarding infectious disease: you will note from the report which follows that this area has had one of its most intensive epidemics of measles ever recorded—803 cases being notified with unfortunately two deaths. Although we have at the moment no effective means of control much can be done to minimise the complications (especially pneumonia and ear disease) by seeking medical advice at the earliest opportunity.

There has been an increase in the number of notified cases of food poisoning during the year, 10 as compared with 5 during 1953. We have still a long way to go before hygienic food handling and preparation both in shops and homes can be considered satisfactory.

Regarding the services for which the W.R.C.C. are responsible. All have shown considerable expansion during the year; the home nursing service has now reached saturation point with the present staff available.

A continuous headache is the difficulty in attracting suitable nursing staff to the area—this problem is of course national and common to most industrial areas situated inland and at a distance from accepted beauty spots. Your co-operation in the field of housing is greatly appreciated, without which the position would have been intolerable.

In a time of full employment the only solution would appear to be some additional financial inducement to attract applicants to these unpopular areas.

My sincere thanks are due to the staff both nursing and clerical for their unflinching co-operation and work during the year, often in difficult circumstances, and to my chief clerk who has been responsible for compiling the statistical detail of the report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. HIGGINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 1 — VITAL STATISTICS

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	38,419
Population (Registrar's mid-year estimate)	33,460
Number of Inhabited Houses	8,827
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£515

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	360	297	657
Illegitimate	20	14	34
	<hr/> 380	<hr/> 311	<hr/> 691

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	20.7
Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 population	15.2

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	9	7	16
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 10	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 17

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	24.0
Still-Birth Rate for England and Wales	23.4

Deaths of Infants (under One Year of Age).

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	13	17	30
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 17	<hr/> 31

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age: (Included in the above).

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	11	17
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 17

Infant Mortality Rate:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	44.9
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	25.5

Causes of Death in the Thorne Rural District as supplied by the Registrar General for 1954.
(including Infant Deaths under 1 year).

Cause of Death:

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1	7
Syphilitic Disease	3	—	3
Measles	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasms, stomach	7	4	11
„ „ lung, bronchus	6	—	6
„ „ breast	—	3	3
„ „ uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	6	19
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	17	14	31
Coronary disease, Angina	18	13	31
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart diseases... ..	24	18	42
Other circulatory diseases... ..	10	—	10
Infuenza	1	4	5
Pneumonia	4	4	8
Bronchitis	25	11	36
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	1	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	4	2	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	24	37
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	7	3	10
Suicide	3	—	3
Homicide and Operations of war	1	—	1
	<hr/> 179	<hr/> 121	<hr/> 300
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, Thorne Rural District	...	...	9.0
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, England and Wales ...	...	...	11.3

Table of Birth, Deaths, Natural Increase, Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality since 1940.

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Infant Deaths	Infant Thorne	Mortality England and Wales
1940	624	314	310	47	75	55
1941	653	325	328	55	80	59
1942	644	285	359	44	69	49
1943	647	305	342	40	62	49
1944	738	250	488	39	53	46
1945	674	234	440	38	56	46
1946	737	268	469	31	47	43
1947	795	321	474	53	67	41
1948	748	288	460	48	64	34
1949	706	296	410	43	60	32
1950	746	289	457	31	41	30
1951	724	300	424	30	41	29
1952	683	305	378	30	43	27
1953	717	281	436	24	33	26
1954	691	300	391	31	44	25

The number of births in this area continues at a rate much in advance of the national figure. For the year in question the number was 691 compared with 717 the previous year; this gives a birth rate of 20.7 per 1,000 of population and compares with a rate of 15.2 for the country as a whole.

There were 300 deaths from all causes during the year compared with 281 the previous year. This gives a death rate of 9.0 per 1,000 population. The death rate for the country as a whole remained practically unchanged at 11.3 per 1,000 population.

From a perusal of the table of causes of death supplied by the Registrar General it will be noted that there is no significant change from the previous year. Diseases of the heart and circulation continue to be the main factor accounting for 116 deaths, over one-third of the total compared to 111 during 1953. Cancer accounted for 42 deaths compared with 43 for the previous year.

As forecast in previous reports the deaths from tuberculosis have now begun to fall. There were 7 deaths from this disease during the year, a reduction of 3 on 1953.

It will be noticed that measles accounted for 2 deaths during the year after being absent as a cause of death for some years. There is a tendency nowadays for many parents to regard this disease as a trivial childhood complaint and possibly not even sending for medical advice. If this tendency continues measles will probably continue to figure in the causes of death.

There was one death during the year attributed to pregnancy. This occurred in the Doncaster maternity hospital and after due enquiry was thought to be unavoidable.

INFANT DEATHS, 1954.—Compared with 5 previous years.

CAUSE OF DEATH	1 9 5 4										Total					
	Under				1-2 months	2-4 months	4-6 months	6-8 months	8-10 months	10-12 months	TOTAL	Deaths				
	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks								1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Chest Infections, e.g. Pneumonia, Bronchitis		1	1		1	5	4				12	13	12	6	11	15
Prematurity	7										7	1	9	7	6	10
Complications of Labour															1	3
Gastro-Enteritis						1					1	2	1	3	5	2
Congenital Defect	3	1			1				1		6	4	4	7	4	5
Asphyxia	4										4		2	4	2	
Meningitis							1				1	1				2
Convulsions																2
Cerebral Haemorrhage														2		1
Haemolytic Disease												1	1	1		
Pinks Disease																1
Post-Operative																1
Miscellaneous												2	1		2	1
	14	2	1		2	6	5		1		31	24	30	30	31	43

From the above chart the total infant deaths during the year were 31, giving an infant death rate of 44.9 compared with the figure of 33 the previous year.

At first sight this result may seem a disappointment but the increase is entirely due to a large increase in the deaths of infants during the first week of life (14) compared with only 3 during 1953. As practically all deaths during the first week of life are due to factors over which we have little or no control the result for the year can be considered satisfactory. The number of deaths of infants who survived the first week of life is in fact the lowest ever recorded for this area.

Once again one must mention the excellent work of the nurses and general medical practitioners who are responsible for the supervision of the health of the children.

SECTION 2 — INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS						TOTAL	Adm. to Hosp.	Deaths
	0-1 years	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25 years & over			
Scarlet Fever		6	10				16		
Whooping Cough	11	40	12	3			66		
Measles	43	418	333	5	2	2	803	11	2
Acute Pneumonia		10	3	2	3	9	27	1	8
Dysentery		2					2		
Erysipelas						12	12	1	
Food poisoning		3	2		1	4	10		
Puerperal Pyrexia					1	1	2	1	

From the above table it will be noticed that the area had a very considerable epidemic of measles during the year, when over 800 cases were notified with two deaths. Although this gives a very low mortality it shows that the disease must never be treated lightly. It is very necessary for parents to send for medical assistance as soon as the disease is suspected. This will ensure that the many after-effects such as chronic chest conditions and ear diseases are reduced to a minimum.

Out of 27 cases of acute pneumonia notified there were 8 deaths showing that even with modern treatment nearly one-third of the notified cases show a fatal result. The majority of the deaths occurred in young children and it is possible that the debility amongst the child population due to the measles epidemic was in part responsible.

There has been an increase in the number of notified cases of food poisoning during the year (10) compared to (5) the previous year.

Food handling is still very far from perfect. As an example of this we see the exposure of cooked and raw meats in the same window on the same counter, handled by hands used for both and weighed on the same scale.

Although most food shops are in general showing an increasing awareness of hygiene there are still many obvious and even dangerous practices, as witness the picking up of wrapping paper with a saliva-moistened finger or blowing up a paper bag for sweets and meat pies.

Although legislation and inspection by the sanitary inspectors can do much the public as a whole must also play their part. Do you refuse to accept badly handled food and voice objection?, or go home and grumble about the slackness of your health department.

The success of any plan to make dirty food a thing of the past will ultimately depend on the public. The education of manufacturers and handlers will be painfully slow if the public remain apathetic about the cleanliness of the food they buy in shops, cafes and canteens.

The purchaser can do so much more to raise food standards than legislation, and should only patronise establishments where clean methods prevail.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified during 1954 is as follows:

Age Group:					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
					M	F	M	F	
0— 1 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	—
1— 2 „	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	1
2— 5 „	...	...	...	...	—	1	...	—	—
5—10 „	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—
10—15 „	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	—	—
15—20 „	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	—	—
20—25 „	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	—	—
25—35 „	...	...	...	...	7	4	...	—	—
35—45 „	...	...	...	...	6	3	...	—	—
45—55 „	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	—	—
55—65 „	...	...	...	...	4	—	...	—	—
65 and over	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—
					—	—	—	—	—
					28	17	—	—	1
					—	—	—	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1954.

Age Group:		M	F
0—15 years	...	—	—
15—25 „	...	—	1
25—45 „	...	—	—
45 and over	...	6	—
		—	—
		6	1
		—	—

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Thorne Rural District: ... 0.21
Tuberculosis Death Rate England and Wales: ... 0.18

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY — 1954

During 1954 the South Yorkshire Mass Radiography Unit visited three areas in the district.

Apart from the public sessions which were made available arrangements were also made to examine all school children in the 13—15 year age group.

Details of the survey are set out below:

Number examined.	Abnormalities Discovered			TOTAL
	Tuberculosis		Other	
	Active	Inactive		
4515	21	25	82	128

The non-tuberculous abnormalities are classified as follows:

Condition:	Number
Chronic bronchitis and emphysema	19
Pneumonia (non-tuberculous)	4
Bronchiectasis	9
Pulmonary fibrosis	5
Pneumoconiosis	30
Basal fibrosis	1
Pleural thickening	1
Pleural and interlobal effusion	1
Inter-thoracic, new growth	2
Cardio-vascular lesions—congenital	1
” ” ” —acquired	8
Miscellaneous (including acquired conditions of ribs etc.)	1
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

From the tables it will be noticed that there has been an increase in the notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis during the year from 36 to 45.

This increase is a direct result of the visit to the area by the Mass Radiography Unit when out of a total of 4,515 persons who were X-Rayed 21 were found to have active tuberculosis and, therefore, notifiable.

There was only one case of non-pulmonary disease notified during the year. The fall in the number of cases is undoubtedly mainly due to the fact that practically all the milk consumed in this area is now pasteurised.

There has been a fall in the number of deaths (7) attributed to this disease compared with (10) the previous year.

The falling death rate in this disease is partly due to recent advances in chest surgery and in the use of new drugs both of which are now available to reinforce the old time-honoured methods of rest, good food, fresh air plus the vital part played by the Local Authority preventive services which comprise after-care, supervision of contacts, safer milk-supplies and re-housing. There must be no tendency to overlook the importance of the Local Authority in these matters.

By arrangement with the various housing committees a degree of housing preference is given where recommended by this department to persons suffering from open, active tuberculosis and living in conditions which favour the spread of infection.

SECTION 3 — W.R.C.C. SERVICES

CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS (as at 30.6.1955).

ANTE-NATAL, POST NATAL AND RELAXATION CLINICS

Thorne:

Temperance Institute, Thorne Friday afternoons 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Moorends:

Wesleyan Chapel, Northgate, Moorends Thursday afternoons 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

Stainforth:

Wesleyan Chapel, Church Road, Friday mornings 10.0 a.m. to 12 noon
Stainforth

Dunscroft:

Church Hall, Station Road, Dunscroft Wednesday afternoons 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

Thorne:		
Temperance Institute, Thorne	Wednesday afternoons	1.45 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Moorends:		
Wesleyan Chapel, Northgate, Moorends	Tuesday afternoons	1.45 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Stainforth:		
Wesleyan Chapel, Church Road, Stainforth	Wednesday afternoons	1.45 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Dunscroft:		
Church Hall, Station Road, Dunscroft	Tuesday afternoons	1.45 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Hatfield:		
Victoria Hall, High Street, Hatfield	Monday afternoons	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINICS

Thorne:		
Temperance Institute, Thorne	Tuesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
South End Primary School	Wednesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Moorends:		
West Road Infants	Wednesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Secondary Modern Girls' School	Monday morning	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Thursday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Stainforth:		
Wesleyan Chapel, Church Road, Stainforth	Monday morning	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Dunscroft:		
Church Hall, Station Road, Dunscroft	Tuesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Thursday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Hatfield Dunsville School	Wednesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Hatfield:		
Secondary Modern School	Tuesday mornings	9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon
Hatfield Woodhouse Junior School	Monday morning	9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon

SPECIALISTS CLINICS

(Attendances made by appointment at the Divisional Health Office, Council Offices, Thorne)

Paediatric Clinic:	Every 2nd Thursday	9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic:	Every Friday morning	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic:	Every 2nd Wednesday	9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Every 4th Thursday	2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Ultra Violet Light Clinic:	Every Monday	1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon
Speech Therapy Clinic:	Every Monday and alternate Wednesdays	9.20 a.m. to 12.0 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Child Guidance Clinic:	As necessary	
Vaccination and Immunisation:	As necessary	

LABORATORY SERVICES

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Wakefield.

The examinations carried out at the laboratory include those for milk, water and other biological tests in connection with the clinical services.

The Sheffield Regional Hospital Board arrange for the blood examinations for the ante-natal clinics. Occasionally, use is made of the pregnancy diagnosis laboratory at Edinburgh.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

All cases requiring this service, including infectious diseases, are now dealt with by the County Council Ambulance Depot, Bentley, near Doncaster. Telephone number: Doncaster 49468.

VENEREAL DISEASE

There is no Centre for Venereal Disease in this area, the nearest Centre being at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

TUBERCULOSIS — PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

For a discussion of this, refer to the section dealing with Infectious Disease.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES — ATTENDANCES

Infant welfare clinics are held at premises as shown under the heading "Clinic Arrangements."

Each clinic is staffed by an Assistant County Medical Officer and two health visitors with assistance from voluntary workers.

Below are details of attendances during 1954: —

Clinic situated at	Number of Children who attended	First Attendance	Total Attendances
Thorne	320	121	1587
Moorends	230	111	1896
Stainforth	239	91	2684
Dunscroft	428	167	2464
Hatfield	148	71	1111
	<hr/> 1365 <hr/>	<hr/> 561 <hr/>	<hr/> 9742 <hr/>

From the above table it will be noticed that there has been a considerable increase in the use of this welfare service by the public.

The number of individual children who attended has risen from 1,203 during 1953 to 1,365 and the total attendances from 7,602 to 9,742, a rise of 25%. All the individual clinics have shared in this increased work, the largest increase being in the Dunscroft area where the attendance has risen by 50%.

The credit for this work must go to the health visitors who throughout the year have been most diligent in their attention to their duties in regard to young children.

WELFARE FOODS SERVICE

During April 1954 the Ministry of Health Circular No. 10/54 was received, which indicated and outlined the plans for local authorities to take over from the Ministry of Food the distribution of welfare foods. The foods concerned were National Dried Milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin "A" and "D" tablets.

On the 1st June, 1954, a further circular was received stating that the take-over should be the 28th June, 1954.

This was done without any undue difficulty and since then welfare foods have been distributed from centres listed hereunder.

The actual distribution of the foods at the centres is undertaken by members of the W.V.S. and voluntary workers, and great credit is due to them in the excellent way distribution was carried out during and since the transition period.

Centres from which Distribution takes place:

Thorne Child Welfare Centres. ...	Every Wednesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
„	Friday	1.30 p.m. to 3.0 p.m.
Moorends Child Welfare Centre ...	„ Tuesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Stainforth Child Welfare Centre ...	„ Wednesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Hatfield Child Welfare Centre ...	„ Monday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Dunscroft Child Welfare Centre ...	„ Tuesday	2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
W.V.S Headquarters, Moorends ...	Monday to Saturday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
R.A.F Child Welfare Centre, Lindholme	Every Wednesday	2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.
Fishlake School	Monday to Friday	9.0 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

During the period 28th June, 1954 to the 1st January, 1955, the total food distributed was as follows: —

N.D.M	Cod Liver Oil	“A” & “D” Tablets	Orange Juice
10,877 tins.	1,707 bottles	464 packets.	7,068 bottles.

HEALTH VISITING

The establishment of health visitors for this area is 7.

Six qualified health visitors covered the area during 1954, as follows:

Mrs. I. J. Chappell	...	...	Dunscroft and small portion of Stainforth.
Miss P. B. Mabbit	...	...	Dunsville, Hatfield, Hatfield Woodhouse, Lindholme etc.
Miss S. Willett	...	...	Thorne.
Mrs. W. Smith	...	...	„
Miss S. Macphail	...	...	Moorends and Sykehouse.
Mrs. I. Will	...	...	Stainforth and Fishlake.

During the year Miss S. Willett left to work elsewhere in the County area, and consequently visiting had to be somewhat restricted in Thorne.

Owing to a very acute situation on the midwifery staff health visitors had to be called in to take over the ante-natal clinics (formerly administered solely by the midwives), and this also tended to handicap visiting but, as will be seen from the figures below, when compared with the previous year there has still been an increase in home visiting.

Visits to:	First Visits	Total Visits
Expectant Mothers	84	125
Children under 1 year of age.	674	2782
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	—	4013
Other cases	—	1772
	<hr/> 758	<hr/> 8692

Total number of families visited by health visitors 2,160.

In addition to the above figures an assistant health visitor who acts as the tuberculosis nurse paid 772 visits to patients' homes where tuberculosis is present.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

The undermentioned nurses were employed during 1954:

Mrs. D. Cameron (Queen's). Resigned 31.8.54.

Mrs. J. Cawthrow (S.R.N.).

Mrs. P. Moulds (S.R.N.).

Miss A. K. Schuller (Queen's).

Mrs. A. G. M. Wagstaff (Queen's). Resigned 31.12.54.

Miss A. K. Caraher (Queen's). Appointed October 1954.

Mrs. D. Dray (S.R.F.N.). Temporary.

During the year the following cases were attended and visits made:

Type of Case	Number of cases attended			Number of visits
Medical	665	...	...	13514
Surgical	330	...	...	6736
Infectious diseases	3	...	...	30
Tuberculosis	8	...	...	276
Maternal complications	12	...	...	75
	<hr/> 1018			<hr/> 20631
Comparison with previous years	1953	...	...	18085
	1952	...	...	18553
	1951	...	...	15821
	1950	...	...	11738
	1949	...	...	10093

The work of the home nurses has again shown a considerable increase over the previous year, and has now reached 20,000 visits annually.

This service has been exceedingly difficult to administer during the year due to staff shortages and on occasions it has been unfortunately necessary to ask the general practitioners to limit the demands on the service.

The nurses have all on occasions been much overworked but have carried out their duties with unfailing regularity and without complaint.

There is the utmost difficulty in getting nurses to come to the area. Repeated advertisements bring in negative results, and of those who do enter the service the only ones to stay permanently are those with family connections in the area.

The Thorne Rural District Council Housing Committees have always given sympathetic consideration to the housing of suitable applicants, without which there would certainly have been a general breakdown in the service.

As mentioned in my opening letter, the only solution in a time of full employment would seem to be some additional financial inducement for nurses to work in these unpopular areas.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The following list shows the midwives who practised in this area during 1954: —

Miss R. Autherson,	Thorne.
Miss E. Cliffe,	Hatfield — retired 31-11-54.
Mrs. M. Davidson,	Hatfield.
Mrs. E. Gorst,	Thorne.
Mrs. S. Kenyon,	Stainforth.
Mrs. V. L. C. Smith,	Thorne — resigned 31-8-54.
Mrs. M. Walker,	Moorends.

Details of the work carried out during 1954 are set out below: —

(i) Number of deliveries:

Live Births 426

Still Births 5

of which the doctor was present at time of delivery on 28 occasions.

(ii) Number of women discharged from hospital to the care of midwife before the 14th day. 35

(iii) Number of times midwives summoned medical aid to their cases. 165

(iv) Number of cases:

where Gas and Air was administered 236

where Pethidine was administered 228

Towards the end of the year pressure was at its maximum, as with only five midwives on the district and sickness and holidays to cope with many midwives did not get their off-duty on time.

It was necessary also to arrange for health visitors to assist at the ante-natal clinics (formerly administered solely by the midwives) owing to midwifery staff shortage. The newly-created relaxation classes had to be abandoned to relieve the position.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINICS

Joint ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held in premises as shown under the heading "Clinic Arrangements."

Each clinic is staffed with a medical officer and two midwives.

In January 1954 special relaxation classes were commenced to be held at the conclusion of each ante-natal clinic. Four midwives had been specially trained to give instruction to mothers on relaxation methods, but unfortunately these classes had to be temporarily closed at the end of the year owing to the acute staff shortage.

The following figures give an indication as to the number of attendances made during the year at the ante-natal clinics—

Clinic situated at	ANTE-NATAL				POST-NATAL			
	Number of women who attended				Total attendances			
Thorne	58	...	238	...	6	...
Moorends	98	...	551	...	12	...
Stainforth	141	...	655	...	17	...
Dunscroft	117	...	373	...	18	...
Hatfield	24	...	115	...	3	...
			438		1932		56	

PREMATURE BABIES

Set out below are brief details of the premature babies born during 1954: —

	TOTAL BORN				Of Those Born Alive	
	Dead		Alive		Number who died under 28 days old	Number who survived over 28 days
	At Home	In Hosp.	At Home	In Hosp.		
Under 3 lbs.		1	3	2	4	1
3-4 lbs.	2	1	1	8	3	6
4-5½ lbs.	1	2	14	20	3	31
	3	4	18	30	10	38
	7		48			

From the above table it will be noted that 48 children were born prematurely (i.e. had a birth weight of under 5½ lbs.) and 38 survived the statistical period of 28 days.

Investigation shows that all the infants who did not survive died during the first week of life. The deaths were all considered to be unavoidable.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Type of Cases Attended	1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		1949	
	Cases	Hrs wkd	Cases	Hrs wkd	Cases	Hrs wkd	Cases	Hrs wkd	Cases	Hrs wkd	Cases	Hrs wkd
Maternity	60	7813	62	6619	54	6184	63	6930	69	5137	32	—
Tuberculosis	8	1584	5	847	1	120	—	—	2	343	—	—
Chronic Sick (including aged & infirm)	97	16384	80	14161	63	12422	62	12159	29	3568	6	—
Others	26	4319	33	5432	36	5849	46	4476	20	2686	6	—
	191	30100	180	27059	154	24575	171	23565	120	11734	44	N/A

From the table above it will be seen that there has again been a steady expansion of the service, mainly amongst the aged and infirm. This expansion would have been all the greater but for the rationing of hours worked which had to be introduced during the year to keep within the authorised establishment.

The necessary enquiries and supervision undertaken in connection with this service now takes up an increasing proportion of the work of the nursing staff, and it is considered that consideration should now be given by the County Council to the appointment of full-time home help organisers to relieve the valuable time of the nurses for more important duties.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccinations carried out in the area are shown below, together with details of the vaccinations done in the six previous years: —

PRIMARY VACCINATIONS:

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
0-5 years	169	150	109	136	109	112	19
5-14 years	6	10	5	11	20	18	3
15 years and over	7	8	16	25	72	39	7
	182	168	130	172	201	169	29

RE-VACCINATIONS:

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
0-5 years	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
5-14 years	3	2	3	—	—	5	2
15 years and over	9	20	17	13	1	11	2
	12	22	20	16	1	17	4

The number of vaccinations carried out has again risen to 182 which is the highest figure since 1950. It is as a direct result of the propaganda amongst the parents by the health visiting staff that is mainly responsible.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Since the County Council agreed to the arrangements for immunisation against whooping cough 8 children were immunised in 1952 and 34 during 1953 of which 3 contacted whooping cough.

During 1954 84 children were immunised, of which none contacted whooping cough.

Immunisation against whooping cough is carried out by the medical officer at the child welfare centres and by the general practitioners.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out in the area during 1954, together with figures for the six previous years:—

PRIMARY COURSES:

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
0-5 years old	301	221	227	277	288	305	252
5-15 years old	320	385	361	161	104	93	82
	<u>621</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>392</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>334</u>

REFRESHER COURSES:

5-15 years old	<u>408</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>4</u>
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As will be seen, the number of primary immunised children has again continued to rise, the figure (621) being an increase of 15 on the previous year. As there are approximately 700 births a year if the present figure can be maintained then a high proportion of the community will eventually have been immunised.

For the first time for five years the number immunised among the under five year olds has risen from 221 to 301, for which the health visitors, by their constant efforts in the homes of the children, are mainly responsible.

However, there is still very considerable apathy amongst many parents and the above figures have mainly resulted from the success of the immunisation carried out in the various schools.

The main difficulty in trying to encourage parents to accept immunisation of their children is that diphtheria has become a rare disease owing to the success of immunisation and the majority of mothers of young children have no idea of what a devastating disease it can be. They have never had a case in the family and may never have heard of a friend's child being stricken down. No amount of propaganda can produce the same impression as such direct experience.

It is the clear duty of all of us who are interested in public health work to counteract in every way possible this lowered incentive for parents to have their children immunised, e.g. by stressing the dangers and by pointing out that until quite recently it was one of the commonest causes of child deaths.

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CLINIC

Two sessions are held weekly at the Thorne Child Welfare Centre. Children having this treatment are referred to the Divisional Health Office when arrangements are then made for attendance.

Attendances during 1954 are as follows, and when compared with those of the two previous years show an increase:—

	AGE GROUPS			Total
	0-5	5-15	Others	
<i>Referred for Treatment by—</i>				
General Practitioners	27	53	—	80
School Medical Officer	—	4	—	4
Child Welfare Centres	26	6	—	32
Other Sources	44	29	4	77
	<u>97</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>193</u>
Number who Attended	91	85	4	180
number of Attendances	1155	1394	55	2604

CONVALESCENT HOME TREATMENT:

The County Council provide convalescence for patients in need of such care. Applications, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, are forwarded to the Divisional Health Office when arrangements are then made for the patient to go away.

The number of patients who have proceeded on convalescence is as follows:—

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
5	10	7	7	12	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT — SECTION 47.

During 1954 one case was dealt with under Section 47.

This was an aged and infirm person who was unable to devote to himself proper care and attention, and he was removed to hospital on the 19th October, 1954.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental treatment is available for children of this area by one of the County Council Dental Officers who visit the area.

During 1954 the following children received treatment:—

Number of children inspected	1431
Number found to need treatment	919
Number who received treatment	715

Under the County Council Dental Scheme arrangements are made whereby expectant and nursing mothers are offered treatment either by one of the County Dental Officers or a dentist of their own choice.

During 1954 the following were provided with dental care:—

Number referred for examination:	
By (i) G.P's	100
(ii) C.W.C's	108
Number who received full or part treatment	98
Number who failed to keep appointments	110

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

1. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS:

During 1954 the following routine medical inspections of pupils in schools were made by myself and my assistant:

Age Groups	No. of Inspections	Nutrition			Total Defects Found and which required		
		A Good	B Fair	C Poor	Defect	Treatment	Observation
Entrants	794	171	622	1	Skin	7	8
Second ...	542	83	459	—	Eyes—vision ...	107	47
Third ...	625	102	521	2	squint ...	3	11
	1961	356	1602	3	Ears—hearing ...	3	6
					otitis media ...	9	5
					others ...	1	—
					Nose and Throat ...	30	35
					Speech ...	7	4
					Heart and Circulation	2	2
					Lungs ...	4	12
					Orthopaedic ...	19	11
					Nervous system ...	1	6
					Psychological ...	1	2
					Others ...	12	8

2. MINOR AILMENT CLINICS:

Minor ailment clinics (referred to as school clinics) are held in premises as shown under the heading "Clinic Arrangements." A qualified health visitor is usually in attendance and any serious ailment is referred by her either to the child's own doctor or to the School Medical Officer.

During the year cases treated are as follows: —

Ringworm	(i) Scalp	—
	(ii) Body	4
Scabies		16
Impetigo		394
Other Skin Diseases		119

CONSULTANT PAEDIATRIC CLINIC

Doctor C. C. Harvey holds a special clinic each month for the children of this area.

During 1954, eight clinics were held in which he saw 14 new cases and 49 cases who attended the previous year.

Cases are referred to him from general practitioners, child welfare and school medical officers with all of which he maintains close liaison.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Children who require treatment are seen by Mr. H. M. Petty at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary where he holds a special clinic for the children of this area once monthly.

During 1954: —

	Number of clinics held	
	O-5 years	5-15 years
Number of children seen by consultant, including those continuing attendances from the previous year	... 14	119
Number of children requiring operative treatment	... 12	83
Number who obtained operative treatment	... 2	83
Total attendances at clinic	... 14	166

HOSPITAL EYE SERVICE

Any child who is found to be needing attention to the eyes is referred by the School Health Service to the Hospital Eye Service who then arrange any treatment necessary.

A special clinic is held once weekly in Doncaster.

During 1954, 257 children were prescribed spectacles of which it is known that 136 received them.

SPEECH THERAPY

Any child who requires attention to his speech is seen by the speech therapist who holds a weekly clinic in one of the nearby school medical rooms.

During 1954: —

Number of Sessions held	111
Number of new cases treated during the year	41
Number attending from previous year	34
Total cases treated	75

Twenty-one visits to schools were made by the speech therapist to discuss cases with head teachers.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work in the mental health field has continued to be satisfactory throughout the year.

The social worker has regularly visited all cases under supervision, together with patients discharged home from mental hospitals.

The group training class has also continued to function throughout the year, and it is hoped that in my next report I shall be able to report the opening of a new class in premises which are considered more suitable for this work. A steady attendance has been maintained throughout the year.

The home teacher also visits certain defectives in their own homes to give tuition.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

WILLIAM BELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Foods
H. MORDUE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the work of the department during the year.

Housing:

—1—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:*

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	582
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1544
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	Nil
3		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Houses	...	...	...	Nil
4		Number of dwellinghouses exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	582

2—*Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:* Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

342

3—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:*

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	67
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service by formal notices:						
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	67
	(b) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	173
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after services of formal notices:					
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	103
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	70

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts 1936:

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	Nil
	One house has been demolished by informal action.					

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
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2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
---	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

4—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:*

(a)	1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	490
	2	Number of families dwelling therein	...	980
	3	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	3430
(b)	1	Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year	...	37
(c)	1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	266
	2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	998
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1954

1	State Aided:							
(a)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
(b)	By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	Public Utility Societies etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	Coal Industry Housing Association	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
2	Without State Aid	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Water Supply:

A piped water supply is provided by the Thorne and District Water Company and an estate of 207 houses in Hatfield is supplied from a private borehole. The supply to all dwellings is shown thus:

Parish	Houses	Piped Supply	Standpipe	Wells
Thorne	4156	3883	149	124
Hatfield	2455	2221	30	204
Stainforth	1898	1852	5	41
Fishlake	185	133	4	48
Sykehouse	133	12	—	121
<i>Total</i>	8827	8101	188	538

The following extensions have been completed during the year and the percentage of dwellings with a piped supply is 91.8 including standpipes 93.9 compared with 91.4 and 93.6 respectively in 1953.

Parish	Diameter of pipe	Length in Lineal Yards
South Common Estate, Thorne	6"	48
Ditto	4"	404
Ditto	3"	130
Grange Estate, Hatfield	4"	172
Ditto	3"	180
Kirton Lane, Stainforth	3"	260
Hatfield—Thorne—Relay Station Moorends	14"	7800

Chemical Analysis from the Main at:

SYKEHOUSE+					Parts per million	
Total Solids	300
Chloride	16
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	218
Total Hardness	256
Permanent Hardness	38
Temporary Hardness	218
Lead, Copper, Zinc	Nil
Iron	Nil
Manganese	0.3
Free Ammonia	0.10
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.03
Nitrous Nitrogen	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen	0.10
pH.	7.4

This water is of good organic purity.

ANALYSIS OF MATERIAL DRIED AT 120°C.

					Per Cent
Silica	...	...	...	...	0.3
Iron Oxide	...	...	...	...	1.0
Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	96.0
Magnesium oxide	...	...	...	...	2.7
					<u>100.0</u>

Sewerage:

The approximate state of disposal from dwelling-houses is shown thus:

Parish	Houses	Main Drainage	Pail Closets	Privy Midden	Cess-pool	Septic Tank & Filter
Thorne	4156	3732	193	90	141	—
Hatfield	2455	2192	123	49	91	—
Stainforth	1898	1830	16	43	9	—
Fishlake	185	—	46	100	22	17
Sykehouse	133	—	22	92	7	12
<i>Total</i>	<u>8827</u>	<u>7754</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>374</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>29</u>

The following table shows the number of closets converted during the year to the water carriage system:

Parish	Pail
Thorne	10
Stainforth	4
	<u>14</u>

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Premises	Main Drainage	Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Cess- pools	Septic Tank & Filters	Total
Dwelling houses ...	7754	400	374	270	29	8827
Commercial Premises	425	40	3	—	—	468
Schools ...	279	22	1	—	—	302
Hotels and Public Houses ...	150	6	—	3	—	159
Public Conveniences	17	—	—	—	—	17
<i>Total</i>	<u>8625</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>9773</u>

No. of water closets constructed for new houses on main drainage in 1954 ... 261

No. of water closets constructed for new houses to a cesspool in 1954 ... 3

No. of water closets in dwellings on main drainage ... 7754

No. of water closets in all premises on main drainage ... 8625

No. of closets in the district ... 9773

Percentage of closets in dwellings on main drainage ... 87.8

Percentage of closets in all premises on main drainage ... 88.25

The following are not included in the above statistics:—

No. of dwellings having two water closets ... 609

No. of pail closets on established moveable dwelling sites ... 167

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the information that re-drainage work has been carried out during the year in Station Road and Bootham Lane, Hatfield.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk Sampling:

Milk	Test	Number Satisfactory		Number Unsatisfactory	
Ordinary	Methylene Blue	...	...	...	2
Ordinary	Biological	...	...	...	—
Tuberculin Tested—					
(Pasteurised)	Phosphatase	...	...	...	—
Pasteurised	Phosphatase	...	...	...	—
Sterilised	Turbidity	...	...	...	—
Tuberculin Tested	Methylene	...	...	...	3
<i>Total</i>		<u>12</u>		<u>5</u>	

Ice Cream:

Premises registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act 1938:

Number Registered—

Manufacturers	...	...	...	2
Retailers	...	...	...	65
Producer-Retailer	...	...	...	2

No. of samples submitted for bacteriological examination which have proved particularly satisfactory:

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	10
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	2
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	Nil
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	Nil

There is in Thorne an H.T.S.T. plant with a laboratory and as other firms retail pasteurised and sterilised milk it is estimated that more than 99.5% of the milk is bottled—95% heat treated—and of the remainder much is tuberculin tested (farm bottled). Very little raw ungraded milk is now sold in the district which is very satisfactory.

Public Cleansing:

The service is being maintained satisfactorily by a self-contained unit of a 750 gallon cesspool emptier adapted for the collection of night soil, six refuse collection vehicles, each 7 cubic yards capacity, two of which can be similarly adapted, a utility vehicle, garage, workshop, stores and petrol pump.

Efficient maintenance and an adequate stock to spare parts has reduced the loss of working time to a minimum.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping and it is estimated that the life of the tips is sufficient to deal with the collection for some time to come.

The provision of dustbins by the Council as a charge against the general rate fund has proved successful for the past five years and there is no doubt that the scheme is a useful contribution for the public health.

Moveable Dwellings:

Because of the housing shortage the number increases, many having only a semblance of mobility and are controlled particularly with regard to siting and sanitary conditions.

Four sites with services contain the majority of the vans thus partially alleviating the problem of scattered dwellings.

Food Inspection:

One ton 10 cwts. of various foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Slaughtering:

Most of the meat consumed is slaughtered without the district and three slaughterhouses in use are regularly visited.

Bakehouses:

There are seven registered and routine inspection has shown them to be in a satisfactory condition.

Shops Act, 1934 and 1950:

Number of visits paid under the above Acts.	...	...	...	...	64
Unsatisfactory conditions found	...	...	...	...	7
Conditions remedied	...	...	...	...	7

Factories Act 1937:

There are 71 factories in the district and inspection has shown them to be satisfactory.

Canal Boats:

Eleven have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Rats and Mice (Destruction Act) 1919 Infestation Order, 1934:

Destruction measures taken include the gassing of Dunscroft, Dunsville, Moorends and Thorne tips. Infestations in dwellings and commercial premises have been dealt with.

No. of inspections non-agricultural	...	59
No. of inspections—agricultural	...	136
No. of infested properties treated	...	51
No. of re-treatments	... ..	89
No. of block schemes	... ..	4

Atmospheric Pollution:

The results shown by the apparatus at the Council Offices of deposited smoke and solids compares favourably with other similar stations in the country.

